



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

California State Office

2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1834

Sacramento, California 95825

www.ca.blm.gov



April 9, 2004

In Reply Refer To:
6840 (CA930)P

EMS TRANSMISSION: 4/9/04
Information Bulletin **No. CA-2004-037**

To: District Manager, California Desert

From: State Director

Subject: Proposed Rule to Designate Critical Habitat for Lane Mountain Milk-vetch **DD: 6/01/04**

On April 6, 2004, the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) published a notice (*Federal Register* 69:18018-18035) proposing critical habitat for Lane Mountain milk-vetch (*Astragalus jaegerianus*). (See Attachment 1.) The proposed rule solicits information on several topics, including the reasons why any areas should or should not be designated as critical habitat and the potential economic impacts such designation may have on affected interests, particularly small entities. Of the 29,522 acres of proposed critical habitat for this species, 9,627 acres are administered by BLM. Most of the BLM administered lands are in the Coolgardie critical habitat unit.

Please review the proposed rule, and associated map, and advise CA-930 if you have comments or suggestions regarding the proposed critical habitat boundaries, or any other aspects of the proposed rule. The deadline for submitting comments to FWS is June 7, 2004. Please provide us with your comments, if any, in electronic format by the close of business June 1, 2004.

Now that critical habitat has been proposed for this species, the conference requirements of Section 7(a)(4) of the Endangered Species Act and its implementing regulations at 50 CFR 402.10 are applicable to any BLM actions likely to cause the destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitat. Additionally, the guidance in Manual Section 6840.06B1 calls for BLM to confer with FWS "... on any action that is likely to adversely affect a proposed species or proposed critical habitat." Any outstanding requests for formal consultation with FWS on the Lane Mountain milk-vetch should be updated to include conference on proposed critical habitat.

Questions regarding this proposed rule may be directed to John Willoughby at 916-978-4638 or to Ed Lorentzen at (916) 978-4646.

Signed by:
James Wesley Abbott
Associate State Director

Authenticated by:
Richard A. Erickson
Records Management

Attachment

1 - Proposed Rule to Designate Critical Habitat for Lane Mountain Milk-vetch (18 pp.)

Distribution

CA-610 (Attn: Larry LaPre)

CA-680 (Attn: Roxie Trost)

WO-230, MS 204 LS (Attn: Peggy Olwell)